

# “THE JUDGE OF JEZEBEL’S CHURCH”

Revelation 2:18-29

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## INTRODUCTION

Jezebel stands for: *Ecumenism, infiltration instead of separation, opposition to high standards of Christian living* (often falsely called ‘legalism’), *trusting one’s own judgment instead of practicing being a Berean, the harmlessness of outward sins* (contrary to I Cor. 6:19-20).

Last week we also saw that YOU MUST LEARN TO RECOGNIZE ‘JEZEBEL’ AND CAST HER OUT OF THE CHURCH AND YOUR LIFE. This week we see that **JESUS WILL JUDGE JEZEBEL AND HER FOLLOWERS**. We had better get things straightened out before He takes action!

### I. THE PERSON OF THE JUDGE

#### A. Son of God (18)

Compare the quote from Psalm 2:8-9 in vv. 26-27—the psalm of the reign of God’s anointed. Here He delegates His rule to His own followers.

This verse is the only place in Revelation that the title “Son of God” is found.

#### B. Omniscient Insight (18)

1. Eyes like a flame of fire

2. “I know your deeds” (v. 19; nothing can be hidden from Him)

3. “He who searches the kidneys” (feelings, will) and the heart” (mind, center of our being; v. 23). Note that He also says: “All the churches shall know” that He is so omniscient—not merely those in Asia Minor. This statement helps confirm that these 7 letters are intended to apply to all churches, and that they were sent to all in the first century.

4. He gives to **each individual person** “according to his deeds.”

He gives according to the *true nature* of the deeds—not merely according to outward appearance. **His piercing eyes discern accurately!** His judgment is fair and just.

### II. THE JUDGMENT OF THE JUDGE (“His feet are like burnished bronze”; cf. 1<sup>st</sup> stanza of “Battle Hymn”—“mine eyes have seen the glory...He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.” Only time “burnished bronze” is used in Bible or all Gk. literature: here and 1:15. The picture is of His *glory and splendor* as He *tramples His foes* and of the *refined and pure* condition of the metal.

#### A. On the tolerant Church (v. 20)—“**You tolerate ... Jezebel**”

Isn’t toleration a good thing? Many times, yes. **But not of sin and false teaching!**

Sin, when tolerated, soon:

- Becomes accepted
- Then it becomes practiced; so it was with many believers in this church

#### B. Upon Jezebel and Her Followers

1. Jezebel (22)

- “Cast her on a bed” [of sickness implied; this does not refer to a “couch for feasting”—note the parallel with “great tribulation.]
- Her bed of immorality becomes a bed of sickness and suffering; allusion to immoral teaching and behavior.

2. Her followers

- Like teacher, so pupil; “commit adultery with her.”
- Both literal and spiritual adultery are in view.
- Cf. Israel in OT—esp. book of Hosea.
- These are the Lord’s “bond-servants” that she is abusing (v. 20). They are professing believers.
- They are to repent of “her” deeds; not of theirs (v. 22)—she had taught and led them astray.
- Paul strongly condemns those who “destroy” his “temple” (I Cor. 3:16-17).
- Cast into “great tribulation”—not to be confused with the “Great Tribulation Period” later in this book and referred to by Jesus.

3. Her Children (23)—literal children

- They have a settled mind and character with their mother
- Their punishment is even more severe.
- Literally “killed with death”—i.e. pestilence as often in Revelation

**So, is it only the God of the OT who is a stern Judge? Hardly!**

C. Upon the True Remnant (24-28)—“To the rest who are in Thyatira”

Not necessarily a minority or small group; the word does not demand such.

1. Their Character (v. 24)

- Do not hold or tolerate her teaching.
- Have not known Satan’s “deep things”; the claim of these teachings by the heretics.
- So it often has been and is by false teachers; they call false doctrine “the deep things of God.”
- God shows that such teachings are really of Satan.

2. Their Conduct

a. They abstain from immorality and idolatry—note, “I place no other burden on you.” Cf. the language of the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15:28-29. False teachings are a burden; the true doctrine is not!

b. They cling to proper behavior (19, 25)—“Hold fast till I come” (25)

- This refers to true doctrine and especially proper behavior—See Jesus’ “deeds” in v. 26 that they “keep”, and not “her deeds” v. 22.
- Love manifesting itself in service (v. 19).
- Faith manifesting itself in perseverance (v. 19). They remain steadfast.
- Their latter deeds are greater than the first—when new believers (19). *This is the opposite of the Church of Ephesus (2:5).*

c. They Persevere to the End—“Hold fast till I come” (v. 25) [Again, they are “overcomers”]

**There is never a good time to give up or give in!**

- Till the end (v. 26) not only of the believer's life.
  - Till Jesus comes (v. 25).
  - **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT A BATTLE, BUT A CAMPAIGN!**
3. Their Reward (26-28)
1. Authority over the Nations (26)—cf. Ps. 2:7-8; the literal reign with Christ (see Rev. 1:6-7; 20:4-5; etc.) See v. 27—this authority came from the Father to the Son, then to His followers.
  2. Judgment of the Nations (27)
    - Rod of iron—a shepherd's staff modified into an iron-tipped club to ward off enemies. Also modified as a king's staff.
    - "Rule" literally means "shepherd"; the Hebrew says "break".
    - The context here clarifies that the word here refers to a club.
    - "As vessels of a potter are broken to pieces"
    - "As I have received from My Father—cf. Mt. 28:18.
  3. Morning Star (28)—cf. Dan. 12:3—those who have insight will shine brightly and as the stars forever; Rev. 22:16—He is the Bright and Morning Star.  
Thus, believers have Christ, and shine through Him, and share the eternal hope and fulfillment of all promises.

**CONCLUSION**

There are too many Jezebels in our churches today: Conformity to the world's ways and still be a Christian. This results in a "guttled" Christianity.

Too many people are "tolerant" of Jezebels in the church. Too many are willing to overlook problems and not deal with them; then more people are adversely affected.

We talk of "peace", but the Lord "makes war"—v. 16, and "casts into great tribulation" (v. 22).

We must act; we must inform; or we'll lose our heritage and purity.

**THE TOLERANT CHURCH IS A NEW EVANGELICAL CHURCH!**